

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A semiconductor integrated circuit having a plurality of selectable pathways inter-connected to data sources and data destinations; a cryptographic circuit connected to the selectable pathways to selectively receive data from at least one of the data sources, to decrypt or encrypt the data in accordance with a key, and to selectively provide the encrypted or decrypted data to at least one of the data destinations; an instruction interpreter arranged to receive an instruction signal and to generate an output to control the plurality of selectable pathways to select from which of the data sources the cryptographic circuit receives data and to which destination the cryptographic circuit provides data. The instruction interpreter configured such that the instruction signal defines a data pathway that operates in accordance with a rule that limits the data pathway configurations which are selectable.

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